

Pack 436 News

November 2019

November Pack meeting – There is no regular Wednesday Pack meeting this month. Instead we will be going to **Adventure Park at Sandy Springs Friends School** for climbing and zip lining.

Date: Friday, November 8 (early release for MCPS) at 2:00 p.m.

Cost: \$39 for all participants (Scouts, siblings, or parents). For Lions a parent **MUST** participate with your Scout.

Payment: PayPal is preferred at pack436cubscout@gmail.com or pay by check to Pack 436

Location: 16701 Norwood Road, Sandy Spring, Maryland 20860

More information including directions: <https://sandyspringadventurepark.org/>

RSVP: **By November 1**. Siblings and parents may participate as well. Please fill out the form at <https://forms.gle/TiBP5T5LnF2o1qSQ9> if your Cub Scout or anyone else would like to attend and indicate if you will be able to transport additional children.

Pack Hike – We'll be hiking at the Woodstock Equestrian Park (a new hiking destination for the Pack!). The planned route is about 4 miles, although there's enough of a looping route among the paths that the younger Scouts will easily be able to take a detour if they need to cut things a bit short.

Date: Sunday, **November 3** (rain date November 10)

Time: 2:00 p.m.

Location: Woodstock Equestrian Park, 20207 Darnestown Rd (out MD-28 a bit past Beallsville).

For park information, visit <https://www.hikingupward.com/OMH/WoodstockEquestrianPark/>

Popcorn – Delivery of popcorn orders will be this month.

Pick-up Popcorn: The weekend of **November 16-17** (times TBD) from Stacey's house.

Money Due: **November 19**.

Questions: Contact our Popcorn Kernel, Stacey Buckner (popcornkernel@pack436.com)

T-shirts – The boys voted on this year's T-shirt design at the October pack meeting. You should have received an email with ordering instructions. Each Scout gets one shirt with his paid registration, and you can order more for \$25. Please see the order form attached to the email, and note that orders are due to the Greenfests by **November 8**. Payment may be made via check or PayPal link, included on the order form. If paying via PayPal, please send Brian an email (brian_greenfest@hotmail.com) or text so that he can reconcile payments with our treasurer.

Scouting for Food – The annual Scouting for Food collection drive will be held Saturday, **November 2** (tag distribution) and Saturday, **November 9** (bag pick up). This is done as a Den, and your Den Leader will be organizing exact times and routes for your Den. This is a great opportunity for the scouts to participate in a service activity to assist those in need. We look forward to a record collection this year.

Thank you – To Sanjay Koyani for organizing this weekend's Fall Camping, and to all the parents who assisted at our storefront popcorn sales! It was great to see everyone at the campout, and well done to all the hardy campers who stayed through the wet weather overnight!

BSA National Dues and Pack Finances - We have recently been informed by the National and Council BSA organizations that annual Scouting dues will be increasing substantially - from \$33 previously, to

\$60 - as a result of substantial additional costs faced by the BSA national organization, specifically including increased liability insurance premiums.

While this will result in a substantial additional unplanned cost for the Pack (around \$1400 given our current size), the Pack leadership has decided that we're not going to raise the dues that have already been announced. We're fortunate to be in generally good financial condition, and we will continue to carefully monitor our finances throughout the year, and we'll communicate with the parents in a timely manner if there should be any further concerns.

If you have any questions about this, feel free to reach out to Eric, Howie, or Rob Hellewell (our Treasurer).

Parent Volunteer Signup – Everything we do at the Pack is thanks to parents putting it together. We ask that every family contribute to this by volunteering. The sign-up is at <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/8050545A5A96-pack5>.

Some of the roles we're looking to fill include:

- **Committee Chair:** This will be Eric's last year with the Pack, so starting at the end of the year we'll need a new Committee Chair. There's a listing of the key activities involved at the end of the newsletter, and we're looking into potentially splitting some of the responsibilities into multiple roles, so if you see something you're interested in doing, please let Eric know. In addition, Howie would be able to take over as Committee Chair if there's someone who would be interested in becoming Cubmaster – contact Eric or Howie if you're interested in finding out more about that possibility, including becoming our Assistant Cubmaster to learn the ropes.
- **Lego Pinewood Derby:** Howie needs a couple of adults to help run the Lego pinewood derby – held at our January Pack meeting – January 15.
- **Pinewood Derby:** We're looking for several parents to cover everything from the race itself to handling refreshments and the student volunteers who help us out. Morning of Saturday February 29.

District Cuboree – This isn't a Pack event, but if your Scout is interested, and you have time after Scouting for Food, the District's Cuboree Blastoff is being held Saturday November 2, 1-5 pm at the Boyds Presbyterian Church. There will be slingshots, BBs, archery, a climbing wall, and more. Sign-up and more information is at <https://scoutingevent.com/082-25496>.

District Pow Wow – The district will be holding an adult leader training event on Saturday November 16, 9-4:30 pm at Annandale High School. There's more information and a registration link at <https://scoutingevent.com/082-31310>. There's a cost of \$40 or \$60 (for registration after November 11) – if you're interested, please contact Eric and the Pack may be able to cover the fee.

Earn a STEM Nova Award at iFly

iFly Montgomery is hosting an event on December 15 for Scouts interested in earning their Up and Away Nova Award. Through a collaboration with BSA, iFly offers Scouts a chance to earn a STEM Nova Award and experience firsthand how flying accelerates learning. Visit <https://www.iflyworld.com/programs/boy-scouts/> for more in depth information on the STEM program and partnership with the BSA. For more details or to register your Scout for the Dec 15 event, visit <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/bsa-nova-engineering-up-and-away-stem-education-event-tickets-77179186023>

Overview of the Committee Chair Role

In general terms we tend to think of the Committee Chair as the leader responsible for the “adult” side of the Pack, while the Cubmaster focuses on the Scout-facing activities. There’s obviously quite a lot of overlap in these two concepts, so it’s just as important that the Cubmaster and Committee Chair have a close working relationship.

More specifically here’s a reasonably comprehensive list of the key elements of what Eric has focused on as the Committee Chair:

- Adult volunteer recruiting: Putting together our roster of open volunteer positions (den leaders, specific activity leader, etc.), soliciting parents to take on those roles, and setting up the systems by which we track all of this (e.g., Sign Up Genius)
- Newsletters and communications: Drafting the monthly newsletter, sending it out for review among our Pack leadership and relevant volunteers who are involved in upcoming activities, and emailing it out to parents monthly. Also occasional emails about breaking news or other aspects that don’t quite make it into the monthly newsletter
- Annual planning: Working with the rest of our Pack leadership and parents to plan out the calendar of Pack activities for the year; the current cycle typically includes parent / leader planning meetings in August and February
- Join Scouting Night, recruiting, new membership: Working with the Cubmaster, the District personnel, and other Pack leaders to put together and run our recruiting for new Scouts. Includes getting completed applications (for both Scouts and adults) into the District for processing.
- Membership tracking and rechartering: Keeping track of our membership roster, and on an annual basis submitting our rechartering documents online to the National Scouting organization (typically in the November / December timeframe)
- Chartered organization relationship: Working with the designated representative of our Chartering Organization (American Legion Post 295) to ensure all of the appropriate review occurs (e.g., signatures on adult leader applications and rechartering documents), and ensuring the chartering organization is aligned with the Pack’s plans (e.g., on topics like girls in the Pack)
- Interface with District and Council leadership: Periodic conversations and discussion with appropriate Scouting District and Council representatives on topics of interest